

Night 8

Highlights from Surah Al-Aa'raaf

Surat Al-Aa'raaf only deals with Aqeedah (Belief). Muffasireen or the commentators of the Qur'an have described that between the Heaven and the Hell there will be a wide-open land with high mountains and walls upon which there will be some people, who would be able to see both Heaven and Hell. The people of Aa'raaf are those people whose good deeds and bad deeds would be in balance. They will be put on the Aa'raaf until the people destined to Heaven and Hell have taken their places – then InshaAllaah these people will go to Heaven with the Mercy of Allaah^{SWT}.

Themes

The Surah describes Aqeedah through the story of the creation, and the story of many prophets, who delivered the same message to their people: to submit to Allah alone (O'bodullaah). The stories of Prophet Musa, Pharaoh, and the Children of Israel, Prophet Noah and the flood, Prophets Hud, Salih, Lut, and Shuaib are presented as a lesson to the Kuffar of Makkah. Most people disobeyed and rejected the guidance of these prophets and as a result were punished and destroyed by Allaah SWT.

The Messenger Muhammad (SAW) had spent a long time admonishing the people of Makkah, but only a handful had accepted his invitation to Islam. Many were obstinate and hostile. Thus, they are being admonished to accept the Message, and warned of bad consequences if they did not do so. Now that the Prophet^{SAW} was going to migrate to Madinah, the concluding portion of the surah is directed at the People of the Book with whom he was going to come into contact. This also indicates that the message of Rasulullaah SAW is not just for the Quraish but for entire mankind, including the Jews and Christians.

At the end of the Surah, the Prophet SAW and his followers are instructed how to carry out the da'wah of Islam and be patient in the face of provocations from the kuffar. Above all, they have been advised not to take any wrong step under stress that might harm their cause.

InshaAllaah tonight the Huffazh are going to recite the last 35 verses of Suratul A'raaf. Last night we learned about what is A'raaf and the people who will be sitting on it in the state of hope and fear and how Allaah SWT's mercy on those He wishes.

Here are some of the other messages and commands of this surah:

1. Allah created the heavens and the earth in Six Days, and then He rose over His Throne in a manner that suits His Majesty). (He created) the sun, the moon, the stars and subjected them to His Commands.
2. Those who follow the Messenger, the unlettered Prophet know that Islam commands Maruf (good actions) and prohibits Munkar (evil actions).
3. And (all) the Most Beautiful Names belong to Allâh, so call on Him by them.